

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

4 February 1980

DOCUMENT 1-690/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr CAPANNA and Mrs CASTELLINA

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the embargo imposed by the United States
Government on cereal supplies to the Soviet
Union

The European Parliament,

- having learnt of the decision by President Carter to suspend cereal supplies to the Soviet Union in retaliation against the military intervention in Afghanistan,
 - whereas this action clearly violates international undertakings entered into by the United States Government following the signing of a valid trade contract,
 - convinced that, notwithstanding the seriousness of the Afghan question, this action constitutes a dangerous precedent for the security of international trade and, above all, creates an unacceptable linkage between political problems and those related to the food requirements of peoples,
 - also convinced of the need to exclude, once and for all, the international market in foodstuffs generally and cereals in particular from the arbitrary decisions of governments, given that these resources, which are currently the privileged possession of a limited number of Western countries and to a particular extent the United States, constitute an additional and fearful potential weapon of extermination against populations deprived of them,
 - reaffirming its condemnation of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and requesting the withdrawal of Soviet troops, vigorously asserts at the same time that agricultural resources cannot and must not be considered as a 'food weapon' but should instead be an instrument of peace and cooperation among peoples;
1. Condemns the United States Government for the measures announced by President Carter concerning cereal supplies to the Soviet Union;
 2. Notes with regret that such measures violate not only an international contract but also a principle which is widely accepted, above all at Community level, and which distinguishes between aid to governments and aid to peoples;
 3. Calls upon the Commission and the Council of Ministers of the European Communities and the Governments of the Member States to make suitable diplomatic representations to the United States Government to persuade it to go back on the position which it has adopted;
on the New International Economic Order, due to be held in New York in June 1980, the Government of the Member State exercising the Presidency of the Council of Ministers will put forward, on behalf of the European Community, a proposal that cereal products which are not part of a country's internal requirements should be considered as belonging to all mankind and placed under the control of an ad hoc international organization;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.